The Vermont Phœnix.

BRATTLEBORO:
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1884.

De Lesseps's Panama canal shares had a lively sale on the Paris Bourse, Tuesday, in consequence of the statement in President Arthur's message about a treaty for an American canal or railway across Nicaragua.

The Rutland Herald hears B. B. Smalley mentioned as likely to be Cleveland's postmaster general, but doesn't believe he would tear himself away from his Burlington home life to take the place. When "Brad" Smalley refuses a cabinet appointment we trust the Herald will let us know.

Both the President and the Secretary of the Treasury are anxious to have the foolish and reckless business of piling up 85 cent dollars stopped at once. Out of a total of over 182,000,000 of these dollars, less than $40,000,000 are in circulation, and every attempt to force them upon the public fails.

The Burlington Free Press unkindly says of the legislature's work that, leaving out the bill defining the property rights of married women and the usual tax levy, "all the rest of the legislation might as well be dumped into Lake Champlain, and the general interests of the people of the commonwealth would be just as well off."

In our legislative summary last week we inadvertently failed to mention the passage of the important measure which requires the erection of a fence three feet high around bear traps. Gentlemen of taste are expected to put ornamental iron fences around their bear traps, with a concrete walk leading up to the front gate. The law does not require this, however.

Capt. David L. Payne, the Oklahoma filibuster, died in Kansas last week. He carried the western idea that Indians have no rights white men are bound to respect to its logical conclusion, and had persuaded himself that it was not a sin, but a virtue, to rob the red men of their lands. He had cost the government some hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep his "expeditions" out of the Indian territory.

The report of the Postmaster-General shows that the loss for the first year, caused by the reduction of postage from three cents to two, is a little over six million dollars, or $2,750,000 less than was estimated when the change was made. The change caused a decrease in the use of postal cards amounting to over sixteen and a half millions. President Arthur unites with the Postmaster-General in recommending an increase of the letter weight to one ounce.

Some details of the terrible plague which exists in the mountain districts of eastern Kentucky and western Virginia are given on our first page to-day. A staff correspondent of the Louisville Courier-Journal, who is investigating the malady on the spot, finds it reaching over a territory about 80 miles long by 70 wide. The disease runs two days and is usually fatal. It is probably due to the drought, but is contagious, and its victims number at least 1000. Some of the cases, as where whole families have been carried off, with none left to bury the dead, are shocking beyond description.

One hundred and thirty-seven of the leading citizens of St. Albans addressed a letter to Chief Justice Royce last week, congratulating him on his late vindication, both by jury trial and by reëlection by the legislature, and inviting him to a public dinner in his honor at the Welden House. Judge Royce replied, thanking his fellow-townsmen for their expression of confidence and good will, but declining the dinner because he chooses to avoid even the appearance of evil by accepting such a compliment from the people of his judicial district, whose causes he is most likely to be called upon to try.

The opening of the second session of the 48th Congress on Monday was as tame and uneventful as possible. Neither branch did more than to come to order and listen to the reading of the President's message. In the House on Tuesday Mr. Follett of Ohio introduced a resolution impeaching the United States marshal in Cincinnati. This is a movement intended to ascertain whether there was proper management of the marshal's office at the October election, or whether its power was used to compel a Republican majority in Hamilton county. In the senate Mr. Edmunds is understood to be ready to push the business of compelling the Pacific railroad companies to fulfil their obligations to the government.

An investigation has shown that an ugly Democratic fraud was attempted in the sixth (Chicago) senatorial district in Illinois. Developments show that after the returns were all in and it was evident that the Democrats had lost the legislature, 200 fraudulent ballots were printed and the returns doctored with them to show the election of a Democrat from that District. Gov. Hamilton has declared the Republican candidate elected and given him his certificate. A good many Democratic politicians are mixed up in the job, and some of them will have to go to the penitentiary. The legislature now stands on joint ballot, Republicans 102, Democrats 100, Independents 2, and there is a possibility, though a remote one, of Logan's reëlection.

The President's Message.

It has been well said that that nation is a happy one the annual summing up of whose affairs contains nothing more startling or exciting than is found in President Arthur's message which was delivered in the two houses of Congress on Monday. The message makes no pretence to brilliancy of thought or argument, and is neither more nor less than a quiet, dignified and conservative statement regarding those things which most interest the country, and claim the attention of Congress. Our relations with all foreign powers are harmonious, and in an extended statement regarding them only two points of special interest are developed. One of these relates to the commercial treaty which has been negotiated with Spain and the Spanish Antilles, and has especial reference to the sugar products of Cuba and Porto Rico. What this treaty contemplates in regard to the reduction of the tax on sugar and molasses imported from those islands the country will wait with interest to learn. The other item of peculiar interest is that regarding the treaty with Nicaragua for the construction of a canal, railway and telegraph line across Nicaraguan territory. The Nicaragua route was carefully surveyed several years ago by engineers commissioned by the United States, and declared this the most feasible of all possible interoceanic canal routes across Central America. Since that time a company of American capitalists have been refused government aid to build such a canal, and it is undoubtedly the case that this treaty contemplates the building of a canal by our government and not by private citizens. Efforts in this direction have undoubtedly been stimulated by reports of the almost insurmountable difficulties experienced by the French canal diggers, and by the prospect that many years must elapse in any case before the completion of their enterprise.

President Arthur renews his recommendation for "the abolition of all excise taxes except those relating to distilled spirits," which means that he thinks the tax should be taken off tobacco and beer and left on whiskey alone. We doubt whether the Republicans in Congress will agree with the President in this matter. We should rather see the experiment of making sugar free tried in the first place.

Mr. Arthur has a hearty good word to say for the favorable results which have been realized from the operation of the civil service law. Should President Cleveland fulfil the expectations, and the promises for him of his personal friends, by showing the same spirit toward this reform as has President Arthur, he will have done the first and most essential thing toward ensuring for himself the confidence of the country.

The President's Message.

To the Congress of the United States:

Since the close of your last session the American people in the highest exercise of their suffrage have chosen their Chief Magistrate for the four years ensuing. When it is remembered that at no period in the country's history has the long political contest which customarily precedes the day of the national election been waged with greater fervor and intensity, it is a subject of general congratulation that after the controversy at the polls was over, and while the slight preponderance by which the issue had been determined was as yet unascertained, the public peace suffered no disturbance, but the people everywhere patiently and quietly awaited the result. Nothing could more strikingly illustrate the temper of the American citizen, his love of order and his loyalty to law. Nothing could more signally demonstrate the strength and wisdom of our political institutions.

Eight years have passed since a controversy concerning the result of a national election sharply called the attention of the Congress to the necessity of providing more precise and definite regulations for counting the Electoral vote. It is of the gravest importance that this question be solved before conflicting claims to the Presidency shall again distract the country, and I am persuaded that by the people at large any of the measures of relief thus far proposed would be preferred to continued inaction.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

[The President devotes a considerable space to a discussion of our relations with foreign countries, but the whole matter is happily summed up in his opening sentence, "Our relations with all foreign powers continue to be amicable." He states that the International Association of the Congo has been reorganized and that a commercial agent for the great Congo basin, "which ought to be kept open to all nations on equal terms," has been appointed. The President recommends that Congress take measures to aid in building the pedestal for the Bartholdi statue, so that a place for that "generous gift from the people of France" may be ready on its arrival next May. The two paragraphs below, from this part of the message, are of special interest:]

With the republic of Nicaragua a treaty has been concluded which authorizes the construction by the United States of a canal, railway and telegraph line across the Nicaraguan territory. By the terms of this treaty 60 miles of the river San Juan, as well as Lake Nicaragua, an inland sea 40 miles in width, are to constitute a part of the projected enterprise. This leaves for actual canal construction 17 miles on the Pacific side and 36 miles on the Atlantic. To the United States, whose rich territory on the Pacific is, for the ordinary purposes of commerce, practically cut off from communication by water with the Atlantic ports, the political and commercial advantages of such a treaty project can scarcely be overestimated. It is believed that when the treaty is laid before you the justice and liberality of its provisions will command universal attention at home and abroad.

The International Conference to decide upon a prime meridian, lately convened in Washington upon the invitation of the government of the United States was composed of representatives from 25 nations. The conference concluded its labors on the first of November, having with substantial unanimity agreed upon the meridian of Greenwich as the starting point, whence longitude is to be computed through 180 degrees eastward and westward, and upon adoption for all purposes for which it may be found convenient, of a universal day which shall begin at midnight on the initial meridian, whose hours shall be computed from zero up to twenty-four.

THE NATIONAL FINANCES.

The condition of our finances and the operations of the various branches of the public service which are connected with the treasury department are very fully discussed in the report of the secretary. It appears that the ordinary revenues for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1884, were:

From customs	$195,067,489 76
From internal revenue	121,586,072 56
From all other sources	31,866,307 65
Total ordinary revenues	348,519,869 92

The public expenditures during the same period were:

For civil expenses	$22,312,907 71
Foreign intercourse	1,260,766 37
Indians	6,475,999 29
Pensions	55,429,228 06
The military establishment, including river and harbor improvements and arsenals	39,429,603 36
The naval establishment, including vessels, machinery and improvements at navy yards	17,292,601 44
Miscellaneous expenditures, including public buildings, lighthouses and collecting the revenue	43,939,710 00
Expenditures on account of the District of Columbia	3,407,049 62
Interest on the public debt	54,578,378 48
The sinking fund	46,790,229 50
Total ordinary expenditures	290,916,473 83
Leaving a surplus of	57,603,396 09

As compared with the previous year, there was a net decrease of over 21,000,000 in the amount of expenditures. The aggregate receipts were less than those of the year previous by about $54,000,000. The falling off of revenue from customs made up nearly $20,000,000 of this deficiency, and about $23,000,000 of the remainder was due to the diminished receipts from internal taxation. The secretary estimates the total receipts for the fiscal year, which will end June 30, 1885, at $330,000,000, and the total expenditures $290,620,201 16, in which is included the interest on the debt and on the amount payable to the sinking fund. This would leave a surplus for the entire year of about $39,000,000.

The value of exports from the United States to foreign countries during the year ending June 30, 1884, were as follows: Domestic merchandise, $724,964,852; foreign merchandise, $15,548,757; total merchandise, $740,513,609; specie, $67,133,383; total exports of merchandise and specie, $807,646,992. The cotton and cotton manufactures included in this statement were valued at $208,900,415; the breadstuffs at $162,544,715; the provisions at $114,416,545, and the mineral oils at $44,102,248.

During the same period the imports were as follows: Merchandise, $667,697,693; gold and silver, $37,426,262; total, $705,123,955. More than 63 per cent. of the entire value of imported merchandise consisted of the following articles:

Sugar and molasses	$103,884,274
Wool and woolen manufactures	53,542,292
Silk and its manufactures	49,949,128
Coffee	49,686,705
Iron and steel manufactures thereof	41,464,599
Chemicals	38,464,965
Flax, hemp, jute and like substance and manufactures thereof	33,463,398
Cotton and manufactures of cotton	30,454,476
Hides and skins other than fur skins	22,350,906

THE EIGHTY-FIVE CENT DOLLAR.

I concur with the secretary of the treasury in recommending the immediate suspension of the coinage of silver dollars and of the issuance of silver certificates. This is a matter to which in former communications I have more than once invoked the attention of the national legislature. It appears that annually for the past six years there have been coined, in compliance with the Act of February 28, 1878, more than 27,000,000 silver dollars. The number now outstanding is reported by the secretary to be nearly $185,000,000, whereof but little more than $40,000,000 or less than 22 per cent. are in actual circulation. The mere existence of this fact seems to me to furnish of itself an argument for the repeal of the statute which has made such a fact possible. But there are other considerations that tend in the same direction. The secretary avows that unless this coinage and the issuance of silver certificates be suspended, silver is likely, at no distant day, to become our sole metallic standard. The commercial disturbance and the impairment of national credit that would be thus occasioned can scarcely be overestimated.

I hope that the secretary's suggestions respecting the withdrawal from circulation of the one dollar and two dollar notes will receive your approval. It is likely that a considerable portion of the silver now incumbering the vaults of the treasury might find its way into the currency.

While trade dollars have ceased, for the present, at least, to be an element of active disturbance in our currency system, some provision should be made for their surrender to the government. In view of the circumstances under which they were coined and of the fact that they have never had a legal tender quality there should be offered for them only a slight advance over their bullion value.

The secretary in the course of his report considers the propriety of beautifying the designs of our subsidiary silver coins and of so increasing their weight that they may bear their due ratio of value to the standard dollar. His conclusions in this regard are cordially approved.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EXCISE TAXES.

In my annual message of 1882 I recommended the abolition of all excise taxes, except those relating to distilled spirits. This recommendation is now renewed. In case these taxes shall be abolished the revenues that will still remain to the government will, in my opinion, not only suffice to meet its reasonable expenditures, but will afford a surplus large enough to permit such tariff reduction as may seem to be advisable, when the results of recent revenue laws and commercial treaties shall have shown in what quarters these reductions can be most judiciously effected.

OUR SHIPPING INTERESTS.

That portion of the secretary's report which concerns the condition of our shipping interests cannot fail to command your attention. He emphatically recommends that as an incentive to the investment of American capital in American steamships the government shall by liberal payments for mail transportation or otherwise lend its active assistance to individual enterprise, and declares his belief that unless that course be pursued our carrying trade must remain as it is to-day—almost exclusively in the hands of foreigners. One phase of this subject is now especially prominent in view of the repeal by the act of June 26, 1884, of all statutory provisions arbitrarily compelling American vessels to carry the mails to and from the United States. As it is necessary to make provision to compensate the owners of such vessels for performing that service after April, 1885, it is hoped that the whole subject will receive early consideration that will lead to the enactment of such measures for the revival of our merchant marine as the wisdom of Congress may devise.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

The three per cent. bonds of the government to the amount of more than $100,000,000 have since my last annual message been redeemed by the treasury. The bonds of that issue still outstanding amount to a little over $200,000,000, about one-fourth of which will be retired through the operations of the sinking fund during the coming year. As these bonds still constitute the chief basis for the circulation of the national banks, the question how to avert the contraction of the currency caused by their retirement is one of constantly increasing importance. It seems to be generally conceded that the law governing this matter exacts from the banks excessive security and that upon their present bond deposits a larger circulation than is now allowed may be granted with safety. I hope that the bill which passed the Senate at the last session permitting the issue of notes equal to the face value of deposited bonds, will commend itself to the approval of the House of Representatives.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

In the expenses of the war department the secretary reports a decrease of more than $9,000,000; of this reduction $5,600,000 was effected in the expenditures for rivers and harbors and $2,700,000 in the expenditures for the quartermaster's department. Outside of that department the annual expenses of all the army bureaus proper (except possibly the ordnance bureau) are substantially fixed charges, which cannot be materially diminished without a change in the numerical strength of the army. The expenditures in the quartermaster's department can readily be subjected to administrative discretion, and it is reported by the secretary of war that as a result of exercising such discretion in reducing the number of draught and pack animals in the army, the annual cost of supply and carrying for such animals is now $1,108,085 90 less than it was in 1882. The reports of military commanders show that the last year has been notable for its entire freedom from Indian outbreaks.

In defiance of the President's proclamation of July 1, 1884, certain intruders sought to make settlements in the Indian Territory. They were promptly removed by a detachment of troops.

HARBOR DEFENCES.

The secretary of war submits the report of the chief engineers as to the practicability of protecting our important cities on the seaboard by fortifications and other defences able to repel modern methods of attack. The time has now come when such defences can be prepared with confidence that they will not prove abortive, and when the possible result of delay in making such preparation is seriously considered delay seems inexcusable. For the most important cities, those whose destruction or capture would be a national humiliation, adequate defences, inclusive of guns, may be made by the gradual expenditure of $60,000,000, a sum much less than a victorious enemy could levy as a contribution. An appropriation of about one-tenth of that amount is asked to begin the work, and I concur with the secretary of war in urging that it be granted. The war department is proceeding with the conversion of 10-inch smooth-bore guns into 8-inch rifles by laying the former with tubes of forged ore of coiled wrought iron. Fifty guns will be thus converted within the year. This, however, does not obviate the necessity of providing means for the construction of guns of the highest power, both for the purposes of coast defence and for the armament of war vessels.

THE PRODUCTION OF ARTILLERY.

In my message of March 26, 1884, I called attention to the recommendation of the Gun Foundry board that the government should encourage the production of private steel works of the required material for heavy cannon, and that two government factories, one for the army and one for the navy, should be established for the fabrication of guns from such material. No action having been taken the board was subsequently reconvened to determine more fully the plans and estimates necessary for carrying out its recommendation. It has received information which indicates that there are responsible steel manufacturers in this country who, although not provided at present with the necessary plant, are willing to construct the same and to make bids for contracts with the government for the supply of the requisite material for the heaviest guns adapted to modern warfare—if a guaranteed order of sufficient magnitude, accompanied by a positive appropriation extending over a series of years shall be made by Congress. All doubts as to the feasibility of the plan being thus removed, I renew my recommendation that such action be taken by Congress as will enable the government to construct its own ordnance upon its own territory, and so to provide the armaments demanded by considerations of national safety and honor.

THE NAVY.

The report of the secretary of the navy exhibits the progress which has been made on the new steel cruisers authorized by the acts of August 5, 1882, and March 3, 1883. Of the four vessels under contract one, the Chicago, of 4500 tons, is more than half finished. The Atlanta, of 3000 tons, has been launched, and her machinery is now fitting; the Boston, also of 3000 tons, is ready for launching, and the Dolphin, a dispatch steamer of 1500 tons, is ready for delivery. Certain adverse criticisms upon the designs of these cruisers are discussed by the secretary, who insists that the correctness of the conclusions reached by the Advisory board and by the department has been demonstrated by recent developments in ship-building abroad. The machinery of the double-turreted monitors Puritan, Terror and Amphitrite, contracted for under the act of March 3, 1883, is in process of construction. No work has been done during the past year on their armor for lack of the necessary appropriations. A fourth monitor, the Monadnock, still remains unfinished at the navy yard in California. It is recommended that early steps be taken to complete these vessels and to provide also an armament for the monitor Miantonomoh. The recommendations of the Naval Advisory board, approved by the department, comprise the construction of one steel cruiser of 4500 tons; one cruiser of 3000 tons; two heavily armed gunboats; one light cruising gunboat; one dispatch vessel, armed with Hotchkiss cannon, one armored ram and three torpedo boats. The general designs, all of which are calculated to meet the existing wants of the service, are now well advanced, and the construction of the vessels can be undertaken as soon as you shall grant the necessary authority.

THE JEANETTE EXPEDITION.

The act of Congress, approved Aug. 7, 1882, authorized the removal to the United States of the bodies of Lieutenant Commander George W. DeLong and his companions of the Jeannette expedition. This removal has been successfully accomplished by Lieutenants Harber and Schuetze. The remains were taken from their grave in the Lena Delta in March, 1883, and were retained at Yakutsk until the following winter, the season being too far advanced to admit of their immediate transportation. They arrived at New York Feb. 20, 1884, where they were received with suitable honors.

THE GREELY RELIEF.

In pursuance of the joint resolution of Congress, approved Feb. 13, 1884, a naval expedition was fitted out for the relief of Lieutenant Greely, United States Army, and of the party who had been engaged under his command in scientific observations at Lady Franklin Bay. The fleet consisted of the steam sealer Thetis, purchased in England; the Bear, purchased at St. Johns, N. F., and the Alert, which was generously provided by the British government. Preparations for the expedition were promptly made by the secretary of the navy, with the active co-operation of the secretary of war. Commander Geo. W. Coffin was placed in command of the Alert, and Lieut. Wm. H. Emory in command of the Bear. The Thetis was intrusted to Commander Winfield Schley, to whom also was assigned the superintendence of the entire expedition. Immediately upon its arrival at Upernavik the fleet began the dangerous navigation of Melville Bay, and in spite of every obstacle reached Littleton Island on June 22, a fortnight earlier than any vessel had before attained that point. On the same day it crossed over to Cape Sabine, where Lieutenant Greely and the other survivors of his party were discovered. After taking on board the living and the bodies of the dead, the relief ships sailed for St. Johns, where they arrived July 17. They were appropriately received at Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 1, and at New York Aug. 8. One of the bodies was landed at the former place; the others were put on shore at Governor's Island, and, with the exception of one, which was interred in the national cemetery, were forwarded thence to the destinations indicated by friends. The organization and conduct of this relief expedition reflects great credit upon all who contributed to its success.

REBUILDING THE NAVY.

In this, the last of the stated messages I shall have the honor to transmit to the Congress of the United States, I cannot too strongly urge on its attention the duty of restoring our navy as rapidly as possible to the high state of efficiency which formerly characterized it. As the long peace that has lulled us into a sense of fancied security may at any time be disturbed, it is plain that the policy of strengthening this arm of the service is dictated by considerations of wise economy, of just regard for our future tranquility, and of true appreciation of the dignity and honor of the republic.

THE POSTAL SERVICE.

The report of the Postmaster General acquaints you with the present condition and needs of the postal service. It discloses the gratifying fact that the loss of revenue from the reduction in the rate of letter postage, as recommended in my message of December, 1882, and effected by the act of March 3, 1883, has been much less than was generally anticipated. My recommendation of this reduction was based upon the belief that the actual falling off in receipts from letter postages for the year succeeding the change of rate would be $3,000,000. It has proved to be only $2,275,000. This is a trustworthy indication that the revenue will soon be restored to its former volume by the increase of sealed correspondence. I confidently repeat, therefore, the recommendation of my last message that the single rate of postage upon drop letters be reduced to one cent wherever the payment of two cents is now required. The double rate is only at offices where the carrier system is in operation, and it appears that at those offices where the carrier system is in operation the increase of the tax upon local letters defrays the cost not only of its own collection and delivery, but of the collection and delivery of all other mail matter. This is an inequality that ought no longer to exist. I approve the recommendation of the Postmaster General, that the unit of weight in the rating of first-class matter should be one ounce instead of one-half ounce, as it now is. In view of the statistics furnished by the department, it may well be doubted whether the change would result in any loss of revenue. That it would greatly promote the convenience of the public is beyond dispute.

The free delivery system has been lately applied to five cities, and the total number of offices in which it is now in operation is 159. Experience shows that its adoption under proper conditions is equally an accommodation to the public and an advantage to the postal service. It is more than self-sustaining, and for the reason urged by the Postmaster General may properly be extended. In the opinion of that officer it is proper to provide means whereby exceptional despatch in dealing with letters in free delivery offices may be secured by payment of extraordinary postage. This scheme might be made effective by the employment of a special stamp, whose cost should be commensurate with the expense of the extra service. In some of the large cities private express companies have undertaken to outstrip the government mail carriers by affording for the prompt transmission of letters better facilities than have hitherto been at the command of the post-office. It has always been the policy of the government to discourage such enterprises, and in no better mode can that policy be maintained than in supplying the public with the most efficient service that, with due regard to its own best interests, can be furnished for its accommodation.

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

The Attorney General renews the recommendation contained in his report of last year touching the fees of witnesses and jurors. He favors radical changes in the fee bill, the adoption of a system by which attorneys and marshals of the United States shall be compensated solely by salaries, and the erection by the government of a penitentiary for the confinement of offenders against its laws.

THE INDIAN QUESTION.

Allusion has been made already to the circumstance that both as between the different Indian tribes and as between the Indians and the whites the past year has been one of unbroken peace. In this circumstance the President is glad to find justification of the policy of the government in its dealing with the Indian question, and confirmation of the views which were fully expressed in his first communication to the 47th Congress. The Secretary of the Interior urges anew the enactment of a statute for the punishment of crimes committed on the Indian reservations, and recommends the passage of the bill now pending in the House of Representatives for the purchase of a tract of 18,000 square miles from the Sioux reservation. Both these measures are worthy of approval.

RADICAL MEASURES AGAINST POLYGAMY.

The report of the Utah commission will be read with interest. It discloses the results of recent legislation looking to the prevention and punishment of polygamy in that territory. I still believe that if this abominable practice can be suppressed by law, it can only be by the most radical legislation consistent with the restraints of the constitution. I again recommend, therefore, that Congress assume absolute political control of the territory of Utah, and provide for the appointment of commissioners with such governmental powers as in its judgment may wisely be put into their hands.

EXTENSION OF OUR FOREIGN TRADE.

In the course of this communication reference has been made to the policy of this government as regards the extension of our foreign trade. It seems proper to declare the general principles that should, in my opinion, underlie our national efforts in this direction. The main conditions of the problem may be thus stated: We are a people active in mechanical pursuits and fertile in invention. We cover a vast extent of territory, rich in agricultural products and in nearly all the raw materials necessary for successful manufacture; we have a system of productive establishment more than sufficient to supply our own demands. The wages of labor are nowhere else so great. The scale of living of our artisan classes is such as tends to secure their personal comfort and the development of those higher moral and intellectual qualities that go to the making up of good citizens. Our system of tax and tariff legislation is yielding a revenue which is in excess of the present needs of the government. These are elements from which it is sought to devise a scheme by which, without unfavorably changing the condition of the workingman, our merchant marine shall be raised from its enfeebled condition and new markets provided for the sale beyond our borders of the manifold fruits of our industrial enterprises. The problem is complex, and can be solved by no single measure of innovation or reform. The countries of the American continent and the adjacent islands are for the United States the natural marts of supply and demand. It is from them that we should obtain what we do not produce, or do not produce in sufficiency, and it is to them that the surplus productions of our fields, our mills and our workshops should flow under conditions that will equalize or favor them in comparison with foreign competition. Four paths of policy seem to point to this end: First, a series of reciprocal commercial treaties with the countries of America, which shall foster between us and them an unhampered movement of trade. The conditions of these treaties should be the free admission of such merchandise as this country does not produce, in return for the admission, free or under a favored scheme of duties of our own products, the benefits of such exchange to apply only to goods carried under the flag of the parties to the contract; the removal on both sides, from the vessels so privileged, of all tonnage dues and national imposts, so that their vessels may ply unhindered between our ports and those of the other contracting parties, though without infringing on the reserved home coasting trade; the removal or reduction of burdens on the exported products of those countries coming within the benefits of the treaties, and the avoidance of the technical restrictions and penalties by which our intercourse with those countries is at present hampered.

Secondly. The establishment of the consular service of the United States on a salaried footing, thus permitting the relinquishment of consular fees, not only as respects vessels under the national flag, but as respects vessels of the treaty nations carrying goods entitled to the benefit of the treaties.

Thirdly. The enactment of measures to favor the construction and maintenance of a steam carrying marine under the flag of the United States.

Fourthly. The establishment of an uniform currency basis for the countries of America, so that the coined products of our mines may circulate on equal terms throughout the whole system of commonwealths. This would require a monetary union of America, whereby the out-put of the bullion producing countries and the circulation of those which yield neither gold or silver could be adjusted in conformity with the population, wealth and commercial needs of each. As many of the countries furnish no bullion to the common stock, the surplus production of our mines and mints might thus be utilized and a step taken toward the general remonetization of silver. To the accomplishment of these ends, so far as they can be attained by separate treaties, the negotiations already concluded and now in progress have been directed, and the favor with which this enlarged policy has thus far been received warrants the belief that its operations will ere long embrace all, or nearly all, the countries of this hemisphere. It is by no means desirable, however, that the policy under consideration should be applied to these countries alone. The healthful enlargement of our trade with Europe, Asia and Africa should be sought. By reducing tariff burdens on such of their wares as we nor other American states are fitted to produce, and thus enabling ourselves to obtain in return a better market for supplies of food, of raw materials, and of the manufactures in which we excel, it seems to me that many of the embarrassing elements in the great national conflict between protection and free trade may thus be turned to good account, that the revenue may be reduced so as to no longer overtax the people, that protective duties may be retained without becoming burdensome, that our shipping interests may be judiciously encouraged, the currency fixed on a firm basis, and above all such a unity of interest established among the states of the American system as will be of great and ever-increasing advantage to them all. All treaties in the line of this policy which have been negotiated or are in process of negotiation contain a provision, deemed to be requisite under the clause of the constitution limiting to the House of Representatives the authority to originate bills for raising revenue.

THE CIVIL SERVICE.

On the 29th of February last I transmitted to Congress the first annual report of the civil service commission, together with communications from the heads of the several executive departments of the government. Respecting the practical workings of the law under which the commission had been acting, the good results therein foreshadowed have been more than realized. The system has fully answered the expectations of its friends in securing competent and faithful public servants and in protecting the appointing officers of the government from the pressure of personal importunity and from the labor of examining the claims and pretensions of rival candidates for public employment. The law has had the unqualified support of the President and of the heads of the several departments, and the members of the commission have performed their duties with zeal and fidelity. Their report will shortly be submitted, and will be accompanied by such recommendations for enlarging the scope of the existing statute as shall commend themselves to the executive and the commissioners charged with its administration.

THE BANKRUPTCY QUESTION.

In view of the general and persistent demand throughout the commercial community for a national bankrupt law, I hope that the differences of sentiment which have hitherto prevented its enactment may not outlast the present session.

CHOLERA PREVENTION.

The pestilence which for the past two years has been raging in the countries of the East recently made its appearance in European ports with which we are in constant communication. The then Secretary of the Treasury, in pursuance of a proclamation of the President, issued certain regulations restricting, and for a time prohibiting, the importation of rags and the admission of baggage of immigrants and of travelers arriving from infected quarters. Lest this course may have been without strict warrant of law, I approve the recommendation of the present secretary that Congress take action in the premises; and I also recommend the adoption of measures that will be likely to ward off the dreaded epidemic, and make it less severe in case it should unhappily extend to our shores.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The annual report of the commissioners of the District of Columbia reviews the operations of the several departments of its municipal government. I ask your careful examination of its suggestions in respect to legislation, especially commending such as relate to a revision of the civil and criminal code, the performance of labor by persons sentenced to imprisonment in the jail, the construction and occupation of wharves along the river front, and the erection of a suitable building for district offices.

A PENSION FOR GRANT.

I recommend that, in recognition of the eminent services of Ulysses S. Grant, late general of the armies of the United States and twice President of this nation, the Congress confer upon him a suitable pension.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS RENEWED.

Certain of the measures that seem to me necessary and expedient I have now, in obedience to the constitution, recommended for your adoption. As respects others of no less importance, I shall content myself with renewing the recommendations already made to Congress, without restating the grounds upon which such recommendations were based. The preservation of forests on the public domain; the granting of government aid for popular education; the amendment of the federal constitution so as to make effective the disapproval by the President of particular items in appropriation bills; the enactment of statutes in regard to filling of vacancies in the Presidential office, in determining of vexed questions respecting Presidential inability—are measures which may justly receive your serious consideration.

VALEDICTORY.

As the time draws nigh when I am to retire from the public service, I cannot refrain from expressing to the members of the national legislature with whom I have been brought into personal and official intercourse my sincere appreciation of their unfailing courtesy and of their harmonious co-operation with the Executive in so many measures calculated to promote the best interests of the nation, and to my fellow citizens generally I acknowledge a deep sense of obligation for the support which they have accorded me in my administration of the executive department of this government. CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

Washington, Dec. 1, 1884.

Vermont's Official Figures for 1884.

Vermont's official vote for Governor at the September election was: Whole number, 63,198, of which Samuel E. Pingree, Republican, had 42,524; Lyman W. Redington, Democrat, 19,820; Samuel Soule, Greenbacker, 635; C. M. Stone, Independent, 200; and scattering, 19. Pingree's majority, 21,850. For Presidential Electors, Jo D. Hatch, Hiram Harlow, George T. Childs and E. C. Redington, Republican, had 38,411 each; Democratic Electors, 17,342; Prohibition, 1612, Greenback, 785, and scattering, 1. Blaine's plurality, 18,668.

Court Assignments.

Following are the assignments for the county courts for the coming year:

Royce, C. J.,	Franklin and Grand Isle.
Ross, J.,	Caledonia and Orleans.
Powers, J.,	Washington and Lamoille.
Veazey, J.,	Rutland and Addison.
Taft, J.,	Chittenden and Windsor.
Rowell, J.,	Orange and Essex.
Walker, J.,	Bennington and Windham.

The supreme court assignments for Windham county are Ross, Powers, Veazey and Taft.

The Total Vote.

Approximately correct footings of this year's presidential vote shows a total vote for the whole country of 10,046,073, a gain of 827,822 over 1880. Blaine's total vote is 4,847,659, a gain of 393,243 over that of Garfield. Cleveland's total vote is 4,913,901, a gain of 468,949 over that of Hancock. Butler's vote was 133,880 and St. John's 150,633, against 308,578 for Weaver and 10,305 for Neal Dow in 1880. Cleveland fell 218,261 short of an absolute majority, while Garfield lacked 311,000 votes of a majority. Garfield's plurality over Hancock on the total vote was 9,464.

Red Suits My Complexion Best, and Red It Shall Be.

[Springfield Republican Despatch.]

The furniture in the vice president's room at the capitol was newly supplied for Mr. Arthur, and it was generally commended as one of the prettiest apartments in the senate wing. The furniture had had little wear, and it was expected to last through until Mr. Hendricks selected a new outfit for his use. Senator Edmunds, however, on coming back said that he wanted the room done over. His objection was that as the room is used mainly in winter the green tints were not becoming, and so within a few weeks it has been turned into a flaming bower of red from ceiling to carpet in the most luxurious style. Mr. Edmunds is much pleased, especially with a great crimson satin arm-chair bought at the auction of Gen. Butler's household goods for the Vermont senator's sole use.

The loss of registered letters last year amounted to only one out of every 21,795.

The public debt was increased $741,124 last month, against a decrease of $8,307,193 in October, making the reduction since June 30, $32,143,249. The debt, less cash in the treasury, is now $1,419,906,986.

Francis D. Moulton, the "mutual friend" in the Beecher-Tilton case, died at his home in New York on Wednesday of paralysis of the heart. His age was 52.

Springfield, Mass., reëlected Mayor Martin on Tuesday and voted to return to the license system by a majority of 965. Last year the vote was for no license, 294 majority. Holyoke reëlected its Democratic mayor and voted for license. Northampton reëlected Mayor Cook on a "citizens'" ticket, defeating Editor Gere, and voted for license, two to one.

Some hundreds of the Washington friends of General and Mrs. Logan met at their residence and welcomed them back to the capital last Friday evening. There were no speeches. Gen. Logan had the good sense to say that the political question was settled, and it was no use talking about it.

Senator Edmunds has bought a lot on Pennsylvania avenue at the corner of 21st street, and will build a handsome residence on it. He paid $14,310 for the lot.

The Vermont presidential electors met at Montpelier Tuesday, according to law, and organized by the choice of Jo D. Hatch chairman and Geo. T. Childs secretary. An adjournment was then had to Wednesday, when the electoral vote of the state was formally cast for James G. Blaine and John A. Logan. Col. Childs was chosen messenger to carry the vote to Washington.

According to the latest interview with Dorsey, Col. Ingersoll never asked him for a fee for his services in the Star route cases. The two met one day after the second acquittal, and the colonel said he did not want a cent. "I asked him to walk a few squares with me, and we went to the safe deposit building. I unlocked my box and took out a four per cent government bond for $100,000 and gave it to him. He put it in his pocket and we walked away, and have not referred to the subject since."

RECEPTION CHAIRS for Holiday Gifts, received from Paris and Vienna, of beautiful designs at Paine's, 48 Canal st., Boston.

Local Intelligence.

Announcements.

A FIFTEEN-CENT SUPPER will be served at the Baptist vestry next Thursday evening at half-past six o'clock.

A GOOD DRIVING HORSE will be sold to the highest bidder in front of the American House on Monday, Dec. 8, at 2 o'clock P. M.

Cheney & Clapp's fine art Gift Books are something wonderful.

TO RENT—A Good Tenement on Chase Street. Inquire of F. W. Knech.

The old reliable Hartford, New York, Pennsylvania and foreign fire insurance companies represented by Cudworth & Childs afford absolute protection. The best is the safest in the end.

Brattleboro.

—Case closes out his oyster business this week.

—F. K. Barrows is opening a line of handkerchiefs and other goods for the holiday trade.

—Knapp, the hatter, is settled in his new store in Ryther's block and makes a handsome display of his goods.

—December and May are flirting (out-door) in unblushing fashion this week. Most people hope they will keep it up.

—Recent intelligence from C. B. Rice of Talladega, Ala., indicates his condition to be somewhat more favorable than last week.

—Cheney & Clapp are discounting hard times with a larger stock of holiday goods than they have offered in any former season.

—The Boston Museum company, with Sol Smith Russell as "Nunky," will appear at the town hall on Friday evening, Dec. 19th.

—Armstrong, the plumber, whose excellent work in Brattleboro speaks for itself, now has his shop in Vinton's building in operation, with a competent man in charge.

—Rev. Wm L. Jenkins, formerly pastor of the Brattleboro Unitarian society, has accepted a six months' engagement with the Unitarian society in Bernardston.

—Next Sunday at 7 P. M. Rev. E. W. Whitney will give the first of a series of lectures to young people. The subject will be "Looking Ahead." All are invited.

—L. N. Lawrence, for ten years past clerk with H. C. Willard, closes his work at the store this week, and next week will leave on a visit to his sister in Hamilton, Mo.

—An interesting announcement with regard to an "opening" of the new "Fuller-Model" sewing machine to be given next week will be found in our advertising columns.

—The ladies of the Unitarian society announce their annual Christmas sale at the town hall on Wednesday evening, 17th inst., with special attractions for the young people.

—The mortgagees of Mr. Frink's goods announce a holiday sale of desirable gift articles at greatly reduced prices. Attention is called to their advertisement in another column.

—E. E. Holloway, formerly a tuner at Estey & Co.'s, is now spending some time in Behning & Co.'s piano manufactory in New York to perfect himself in the science of piano tuning.

—I. B. Thorn, druggist in Steen's block, is putting in a fine line of toilet sets, choice perfumeries and other goods suitable for the Christmas trade. Particulars in advertisement next week.

—While I. K. Allen was in Keene, Thursday evening of last week, on business, on his return to the depot he slipped and fell while crossing the railroad track, breaking his right arm above the elbow.

—The children of the Congregational Sunday school held a supper and "jug-breaking" at the chapel Wednesday evening. About $30 was realized for the fund of the "Children's Mission Circle."

—The Central Vermont railroad company reduces the wages of its employes from Dec. 1. The cut includes the narrow-gauge men, but the exact per cent. of the reduction has not yet been announced.

—C. M. Colburn & Co., at Thorn & Son's old stand, have their show windows filled with some of the choicest fancy goods ever seen in Brattleboro. Their display is one of the handsomest on the street.

—The Speedwell Brothers had a good-sized audience to see their "triple acrobatic bicycle" feats at the skating rink last evening. Their performance was the most novel and wonderful yet given in the rink series.

—Owing to a disabling cold and sore throat, from which Mr. Crothers suffers, there will be no service in the Unitarian church next Sunday. The Sunday school are requested to meet at the church promptly at 11 A. M.

—On Tuesday noon Thos. Pentland wheeled John Galvin from the town hall through Main street to the Elliot-street engine house, to settle an election bet. Galvin carried a flag and a few small boys furnished the accompaniment.

—The St. Johnsbury people have been a good deal stirred up over the attendance of the school children on the skating rink, and the school board have finally settled the matter by adopting a rule allowing the pupils to attend Saturday afternoons only, at which time all other visitors are to be excluded.

—A large tract of timber land, estimated to contain between 1500 and 2000 acres, lying in the town of Somerset and formerly belonging to Irvin & Aspinwall of New York city, has recently been sold by their agent, Mr. Malcolm Moody, to F. D. Chase, who is supposed to have bought it in the interest of the Newton Brothers of Holyoke, Mass.

—Miss Carrie Gilmore and William E. Livesey, both roller-skating professionals who are well known in Brattleboro, were married on Tuesday evening at the residence of Miss Gilmore's mother in Worcester, Mass. Next week they will start on a professional tour in company with J. D. Canary, the bicyclist.

—Prof. McIntyre's illustrated "Voyage among the Moon and Stars," given at Crosby hall last evening, was well attended, and his hearers found the evening one of real pleasure and profit. The stereoptic views representing the planetary movements were unusually fine and were admirably managed. Mr. McIntyre's second and last lecture, "A Trip to the Sun," will be given to-morrow evening.

—The Reformer has ex-candidate L. W. Redington picked out to step into Col. Haskins's shoes as United States attorney for the district of Vermont. The editor of the Reformer has evidently overlooked one vital provision of the United States law regulating the appointment of attorneys. The statute explicitly says that a man appointed to be a district attorney "shall be a person *learned in the law!*"

—The attention of the editor of the Reformer is called to the fact that *five barrels* containing torches stood in the rear of Crosby block on the night of the Democratic celebration, *after the procession went up through Main street*, notwithstanding his foolish assertion that "the red plug hat brigade could not have torches because there were none for them." If he wants "proof" it is ready for him.

—The Wilmington committee which was appointed to confer with the Newtons on the subject of extending their railroad to that place from Readsboro, have made their report, and it is printed under the Wilmington head to-day. Some readers may have overlooked the fact, printed in our legislative summary last week, that a charter for such a road was granted by the legislature just before its adjournment.

—C. C. Miller, clerk at the American House, smelled gas in the upper hallway late Wednesday evening, and on investigation found that a woman who was stopping there over night with a year-old baby had blown out the gas on going to bed and had left it pouring out of the burner at full head. Neither mother nor child had suffered serious harm, though a little time more must have been fatal for both.

—The Bohemian glass-blowers are to be at Crosby hall every evening next week, beginning Monday. The First Regiment orchestra will furnish music every evening, and there will be various special attractions, among them a baby show, the handsomest child under four years old who attends to be awarded a case of fancy glassware by ballot. Specimens of the work of the blowers will be distributed among the audience each evening.

—At the annual meeting of the Brattleboro rifle club the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: E. H. Putnam, president; M. Lamb, vice president; A. E. Knight, secretary; A. S. Nichols, treasurer; range committee, H. C. French, F. P. D. Bruce, T. Hannon; finance committee, W. W. Walker, H. M. Wood, A. W. Nichols. The day for shooting was changed from Tuesday to Saturday.

—Hawley's cloak department, with its stock of garments equaling in elegance and variety those to be found in any city store, is drawing customers from a wide territory. Several ladies from Keene, N. H., have made purchases there during the past week. Since Monday Mr. Hawley has added to his stock 200 cloaks bought in New York at a decided reduction in prices, and his customers will have the full benefit of the bargains thus obtained.

—On account of his extreme youth, and by the consent of all the parties interested, the little Mitchell boy, whom Justice Newton sentenced to the reform school last week for being concerned in obstructing the track of the narrow-gauge railroad, has been sent to Jamaica to be brought up on a farm, provided he manifests a disposition to do well. The sentence still hangs over him, however, for execution in case he should prove unworthy of the leniency shown him.

—Mr. Edward Clark has commodious quarters for his piano and organ business in the north store in Ryther's block, and has some fine instruments in stock to show his customers. In recent years, as is well known, Mr. Clark has built up a prosperous trade in his territory in Vermont and New Hampshire, and it is now his purpose to devote more attention than heretofore to his home field. He makes a point of personally selecting all instruments sold by him, and his customers can rely on faithful and long-experienced service at his hands.

—Mr. Jas. S. Morrill, son of Senator Morrill, who spent last winter in Brattleboro, has been appointed to have charge of the treasury department exhibit at the New Orleans exposition, and left Washington on Monday to assume the duties of the position. The Boston Herald's despatch says, with truth, that "Mr. Morrill is a young gentleman of intelligence and energy who will prove himself efficient in the important place to which he has been assigned." According to some of the correspondents there is ill feeling in Washington because young Morrill was given the position over the heads of old treasury employes who wanted it.

—The "Midnight Marriage," at Crosby hall on Wednesday evening by the Redmund-Barry company, was one of the strongest dramatic presentations ever witnessed in Brattleboro. The marked success achieved by Mr. Redmund and Mrs. Barry in this piece is won strictly by faithful, straightforward devotion to the principles of true dramatic art, without once appealing to popular favor through stage tricks or clap-trap. In every particular their presentation is dignified, artistic in the true sense, and wholesome. The support is good, and in two or three instances is notably excellent. The costuming is elegant and the setting of the play satisfactory in all respects.

—There was only a moderate sized attendance at the village meeting on Monday evening. The vote to adopt the charter amendment changing the date of the annual meeting to the first Tuesday in May was carried by acclamation, without discussion and without a voice in the negative. This having been done, all the other articles in the warrant were passed over excepting the one relating to the pay of the firemen. Under this article it was voted to pay the members of the fire department one dollar each for their past year's services, the same as heretofore. The meeting then adjourned. As stated last week the treasurer's annual statement makes a very favorable showing of the financial condition of the village. It is estimated that not more than $500, in addition to the cash now on hand, will be required to meet all necessary payments until the annual meeting in May.

—On Monday, 1st inst., H. C. Willard completed the sale of his drug store and business to Mr. Henry A. Chapin of New York, who has since been in possession. Mr. Chapin is a graduate of the New York school of pharmacy, where he took the first honors in a class of 200, and for three years past has been first assistant in the well known New York house of Hazard, Caswell & Co. He comes here with such excellent recommendations as a man and a druggist as entitle him to the confidence of our people. We learn that it is Mr. Willard's purpose to remain here for the next two months to settle his business affairs, and that he contemplates going to San Francisco about Feb. 1st with a view to taking a position with his brother-in-law, Henry K. Field, who has a general agency for the New England Mutual Life Insurance company on the Pacific coast. Mr. Willard has been engaged in the drug business in Brattleboro for 21 years. During this time, besides serving the community acceptably in this direction, he has many times placed our people under obligation by introducing to them lyceum entertainments of a higher order than most country towns are privileged to enjoy, and often to his own loss. If new business connections finally take him and his family from town, many friends will sincerely regret their departure.

—It is true that Charles's Grandmother is growing old, and it may even be true that she is growing a trifle foolish, but she is neither so old nor so foolish as to be caught by him twice on the same old trick. She has not forgotten his braggart promise to pay "$100" four years ago, nor has she forgotten that he dodged and skulked for the whole summer afterward, and has never paid the money to this day, though all the "proof" he asked for was furnished him with a suddenness which had every appearance of "making his head swim." After that little episode, which made him the laughing-stock of the county, does he suppose that anybody would entertain a proposition from him to pay money on the settlement of any disputed point? If he couldn't or wouldn't pay "$100" in 1880, there is small reason to believe that he would or could pay "$300" in 1884. The affidavits were on our side four years ago, young man; we furnished them without a day's delay, and *we didn't ask you to pay for them either.* When you get ready to act like a man, pay off your old scores, and start square, we shall be ready to talk with you about "reliable, tangible proof" that The Phœnix didn't tell the literal truth about your Democratic procession—and you will find the Old Lady do just as she agrees every time!

—The failure of U. W. Frink, jeweler, was announced last Monday. About a year ago Geo. E. Crowell and F. W. Childs became his sureties on a bank note for $900, taking a chattel mortgage on all the goods in his store as their security. On Monday Mr. Frink informed them that his market creditors were pressing him for settlements which he could not make, and Mr. Childs therefore took possession of the store under the mortgage. On Wednesday afternoon J. G. Eddy, representing a Boston creditor, tried to oust Mr. Childs through a writ of attachment placed in Sheriff Starkey's hands for service, and Mr. Starkey spent the afternoon in watching the store and Mr. Childs under Eddy's orders, but the latter finally gave his job up as something that couldn't be done. Mr. Frink's liabilities are about $10,000, most of which is for money owed for goods to jobbers and manufacturers in Boston and New York and in two or three Connecticut towns. His debts to Brattleboro parties are small. Whitney & Co. of Boston are the largest creditors, their claim being for about $2500. The assets are represented to be between $5000 and $6000, the goods in the store representing nearly $5000 in value. The probability is that Mr. Frink will go into insolvency, that a compromise will be made with his creditors after the claim of Crowell and Childs is satisfied, and that he will then resume business.

—Officers of Post Sedgwick, G. A. R., were elected on Wednesday evening as follows:

B. M. Clay, commander; E. H. Putnam, S. V. C.; G. H. Bond, J. V. C.; Thos. Hannon, Q. M.; D. P. Dearborn, surgeon; A. W. Clayton, chaplain; Henry Streeter, O. D.; D. E. Carpenter, O. G. Delegates to state encampment, T. Hannon, G. H. Bond, Job Long; alternates, S. W. Richardson, Henry Streeter, David Downer.

—Officers of steamer engine company, No. 3, were elected Tuesday evening as follows:

Foreman, W. D. Perry; assistants, John Retting, jr., E. Gibson; clerk, H. G. Cutler; engineers, Benn Perry, Wallace Pratt; firemen, H. Pratt, L. Fay Bowker; hosemen, E. A. Hiler, W. A. Kenney, F. Tuttle, W. J. Spear; steward, D. W. Tenney.

—The following is the list of letters remaining in the Brattleboro post-office, Dec. 5.:

Ladies—M A Colburn, Delia Estabrooks, Kate Flemming, Mrs Mary Houghton, Helen E Lane, Mrs Catherine Martin, Mrs Philena Reed, Sarah Sherman, Maggie Trendell, Louise W Thomas, Mrs E W Wells—Treasurer W C T U, Miss K L White.

Gentlemen J E Ashworth, A J Boyden, C D Connors, L A Cutler, Chas N Dutton, H W Davis, Johnney Emery, Henry Fangant, Horace French, C Herbert Houghton, B Keller, C M Lowe, C A Lamb, N Richardson, C H Sholes, E W Sargent, Edward Smylie, C W Towns, Wilson B Thomas, F H White, J A Walker.

Miscellaneous—Small, Gould & Co, Hapgood & Aldrich, M'f'g Daniels Cutters.

Held for better direction—Mr Eugene Moriarity, Augusta.

Held for postage—Mrs K Tolin, 36 Groft-st, Swansea, South Wales.

"PROOF" BY THE BARREL.

[Londonderry Sifter Cor.]

—The Reformer is still much exercised over the refusal of the public to believe its Munchausenisms about the big Democratic parade here, and offers to go $300 on the statement that it can prove by affidavits that there were more than 300 torches in line, etc. Very likely; but, all the same, the number of torches did not exceed 212, as can be proved by more than a score of witnesses who counted them at different points on the line of march. But when it comes to affidavits the Reformer easily takes the cake. Conscious that its veracity is in constant need of support, it is said to keep a barrel full of them on hand, all signed, sealed and sworn to, ready for use in any possible emergency. We therefore wouldn't advise anybody who relies simply on the truth to buck against the Reformer in the affidavit business.

THE LATE JOHN STEARNS OF HINSDALE.

—The death of Uncle John Stearns of Hinsdale, which took place on Tuesday, removes a man who, up to a very few years ago, was as well known to everybody in Brattleboro as though he had been a resident within the village limits, and his acquaintance was universal throughout this county and that of Cheshire, N. H. His business was that of a cattle buyer and dealer, with all sorts of odd jobs of speculation thrown in in true Yankee style. During the war, in company with John Ray, he dealt largely in horses, furnishing many for the government. At that time he was half owner with Mr. Ray of the American House, and it was of him that G. A. Boyden bought his present interest in that property. He was a man, bluff, hearty and vigorous, whose good qualities were legion and who had everybody's good will—one of "nature's own noblemen," in short, such as we are wont to think belong only to an age that is past. In driving down to the old man's funeral yesterday, with several other Brattleboro men, Deacon Estey recalled the fact that it was "Uncle John" who gave a kind word and offered him money when he "ran away" to Worcester at the age of 13, and that it was "Uncle John" who, seven years later, without mortgage or security of any sort, furnished him the money to set up to the pump and lead pipe business here, and thus, 49 years ago, gave him his start in life in Brattleboro. Mr. Stearns had been failing in health for some ten years past, and had done no active business for five or six years. He raised a family of eight children, all of whom survive him, and one of whom, Mrs. Leander Thomas, is a resident of this village. He was himself one of 13 children, of whom one sister is now the only survivor.

THE ODD FELLOWS' NEW APARTMENTS.

—The Odd Fellows occupied their new quarters in Hooker block for the first time at their regular meeting on Monday evening. Their apartments occupy the entire northern half of the third floor, and comprise a main hall 45 by 36 feet in size, a banquet hall 39 by 21 feet, an ante-room 21 by 17 feet, preparation rooms for the Lodge and Encampment, each 18 by 14 feet, a pantry and a fuel room—making a suite of rooms complete in every particular, both in arrangement and accessories. The preparation rooms have handsome wardrobes for the regalia, there are wide folding doors between the main hall and the banquet hall, and the arrangement is such that all the rooms can be practically thrown into one large apartment on any special occasion. The platforms and furniture of the main hall are movable, so that they can be taken out and the carpet covered with canvas for dancing on social and reception evenings when the members choose to invite their lady and other friends to share their hospitality. New carpets have been placed on the floors of the main hall and ante-room, the furniture and other appointments are handsome and substantial, and the decorations are in excellent taste—giving a general effect which is exceedingly satisfactory, especially by gaslight. The Brattleboro brethren may safely congratulate themselves on the possession of permanent quarters which are the best arranged and among the most commodious of any in the state.

THE HIGH SCHOOL HEATING APPARATUS.

—A decided improvement has been made in the operation of the heating apparatus in the new public school building since our allusion to the matter two weeks ago. Last week during the Thanksgiving vacation Mr. Alfred Hopkins of Bridgeport, Conn., the inventor, was here with an assistant making some slight changes about the furnaces and pipes and to superintend the operation of the apparatus at the opening of the new term. On Wednesday morning several citizens visited the building by invitation of the committee to see the operation of the system. The outside temperature in the early morning was 16° above zero. Inside the building the various rooms showed a uniform temperature of from 65 to 70 deg. The furnaces had been left full of coal over night with a slow draft and a small quantity had been added to each in the morning. The hot air was being delivered from the registers near the top of the rooms at a temperature of 130 deg., and was going out of the ventilators at the bottom at a temperature of 60 deg. Thermometers hung on the walls at various points in the larger rooms showed the temperature to be very nearly uniform in all parts of each room. The air in the building was soft and agreeable and a test with the hydrometer showed the moisture to be at about the normal point. The number of cubic feet of air in the building is about 100,000 and the four furnaces have a capacity for heating 80,000 feet of air each hour. This indicates a change of air throughout the building once each hour, and a mechanical test made by Mr. Hines showed that this was what was in reality taking place. The quantity of coal now being used per day is from 1000 to 1300 pounds. The estimated quantity for a year's supply is 100 tons. To heat the old building 60 tons were required. For weather like the present the apparatus is working admirably, but the real test will come some day when the mercury marks a below-zero temperature with a northwest wind blowing. When that kind of weather comes Mr. Hopkins will again come up to look after his furnaces.

West Brattleboro.

—Israel Wood reports 4½ inches of rain and 11½ inches of snow in November.

Cambridgeport.

—Miss Mary A. Barry of the Bellows Falls High school has been spending her vacation at home.

—Miss Allie Burwell returned with her cousin, Miss Babcock, to Crown Point, N. Y., where she will make a visit of several weeks.

—The first singing-school was held at the chapel Tuesday evening with Walter Hemenway of Grafton teacher.

—John Wilder of Bellows Falls has moved into the hotel. He will engage in the poplar business.

—The parlor meeting held recently by the W. C. T. U. was much enjoyed by those present. Songs and select readings were given by members of the Union. The receipts of the evening will be used to purchase temperance literature.

—The village school will be postponed one week owing to the sickness of the teacher.

—L. H. Eastman, who has been canvassing in Mass. for a couple of weeks, left last Friday for the West, this being his second trip this fall.

—Among the visitors Thanksgiving week we noticed A. A. Hall, Esq., of St. Albans, Henry Wyman with his bride from Proctorsville, Geo. M. Dimond of Palmer, Mass., and Arthur N. Dimond of Worcester, Mass.

—Miss Jennie Chapin, for 13 years a teacher in Pekin, China, is visiting Rev. Mr. Chapin at his home. Sunday, Nov. 23d, she related her experience in place of the regular service.

—Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Davis were pleasantly surprised at their home on Monday evening, Nov. 16th, by a party of some 70 neighbors and friends who came to celebrate with them the 15th anniversary of their marriage. The visitors took possession, entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Davis with a supper and music, and presenting them a nice easy chair, an extension table and chamber set. D.

Dummerston.

—We have recently seen a crayon portrait of the late Mrs. H. R. Stoddard of this town. It is a very beautiful picture, two-thirds of life size. Ira G. French of this town made the portrait. His residence at present is in Orange, Mass., where he has worked as an artist for nearly a year and now has orders for some twenty or more portraits.

—Services were held at the church Thanksgiving-day by Rev. M. H. Wells, who delivered a very interesting discourse. The singing also was very fine and the anthems were well rendered.

—Rev. Mr. Wells exchanged last Sunday with Rev. C. H. Merrill. Many praised the sermon but condemned the actions of those young persons who remained in the entry during the early part of the Sunday-school and disturbed the services very much by loud talking and laughing. M.

West Dummerston.

—D. J. Bailey has an ingenious way of crossing West River. He has a wire guy stretched across the river with a car or box with a standard at each end, the guy running through the standards under two rollers about eight inches in diameter. The car will run about half-way across, then he takes hold of the guy and pulls across.

—There will be prayer meetings at the Baptist meeting house Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock. All are invited to attend.

—The Misses Allen are building a new house near their old one.

Green River.

—Question for the G. R. D. society: Resolved, that new unwashed flannels are a greater bane to the community than medical colleges.

Guilford.

—The Baptist society will make a donation visit at the parsonage next Thursday afternoon and evening, for the benefit of their pastor, Rev. C. S. Sherman. All are cordially invited.

Guilford Centre.

—The ladies' circle meet in their rooms next Thursday, as early in the day as convenient.

—Gilbert Clark recently slaughtered a hog that weighed 671 lbs.

—Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Wallen go to Brockton, Mass., to spend the winter.

Jacksonville.

—A. A. Butterfield, Esq., has recently built a barn.

—Over two feet of snow fell in this section in November and the first of December it had nearly all disappeared.

—Our village schools commenced on Monday the 1st inst., the higher department taught by Miss Mary Houghton of Marlboro, and the lower by Miss Hillman of Coleraine, Mass., a former teacher. The school in district No. 3 commenced at the same time, taught by H. R. Stone of this village.

—A. C. Shepardson has bought the old blacksmith shop and water power formerly owned by the Jillsons, and will build a dam and put in machinery for mechanical purposes in the spring.

—There was a very pleasant family gathering Thanksgiving day at the residence of J. B. Chase; also an interesting one at Charles H. Waste's at the south part of the town; Mr. Waste has recently much improved his premises, making a fine situation.

Jamaica.

—On Monday last one of Ransel Frost's twin boys, about eight years old, broke through the ice on the pond at H. H. Felton's mill, near his father's residence, and was unable to get out of the water until a gentleman passing by reached to him a pole, by clinging to which he was drawn out of the water and safely rescued from his involuntary ice cold bath.

—Widow Bemis, who has lived in the house of Aaron Bemis for some time, has moved into Herbert W. Sanders' house for the winter, whilst Aaron Bemis is stopping for the present at Widow Willard Muzzy's.

—Emerson W. Smith has moved into Aaron Bemis's house in the village, whilst Willard Smith, who lived with Emerson, has gone to live with his other son Herron W., who is postmaster at North Windham.

—Mrs. F. G. Perry has added dress and cloak making to her millinery business, and reports a brisk trade.

—Daniel Sherwin, on his return from Montpelier, has concluded to adopt the cash system in his store trade, so that from and after Dec. 1st no credit is to be the rule at his store.

—Dr. Chas. W. Ray has just got settled in his new residence purchased of Judge Wheeler, G. W. Wyman and wife finally moving in with him instead of H. A. Stockwell as at first intimated.

—Henry Rice started Wednesday morning on his return to Baltimore, Md., going via Worcester, Mass., to visit his sister, wife of Policeman Wm. J. Howe.

—Henry Boynton starts this week on his return to his Dakota home, after a brief visit to his old home here.

Newfane.

—Charles Booth's family moves to Putney this week.

—City detectives (a man and woman) were in town last week, laboring with Coombs, the prisoner from Westminster, who is supposed to have had a hand in setting several fires.

—The dramatic entertainment last week drew a full house and brought in additional funds for the basement room in Union hall.

—The grange and Sons of Temperance will have a discussion next Monday evening concerning the town system in public school management.

—James N. Platt returns to Monson, Mass.

—Little Rosa Mather, after a serious relapse from spinal meningitis, is recovering.

—Business is dull at the steam mill.

South Newfane.

—Sumner G. Shepard of Lebanon, N. H., has moved his family on to the place lately purchased here.

—The ladies' sewing circle hold their first sociable and entertainment of the season this, Friday, evening.

—Henry Bailey began his third successive term of school in Williamsville on Monday. Miss Alice Stratton also opened her third successive term at "Marlboro Branch."

—S. H. Morse, another of our best young men, has left home and gone to seek his fortune in the city. He is to be employed at Harrison Aldrich's store in Boston.

—Mrs. Reese and son and Miss Myers, all of Troy, N. Y., are visiting at Mason Ingram's.

Putney.

—The Sunday temperance concert, arranged by the W. C. T. U. for Dec. 7th, has been indefinitely postponed.

Townshend.

THE TOWNSHEND AND GRAFTON MAIL ROUTE—A STRONG PLEA FOR THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

To Editors of The Phœnix:

I noticed in the issue of your paper of Nov. 14 an item from Townshend to the effect that the inhabitants of Grafton and Townshend are dissatisfied with the change recently made in the mail service between these towns. The change is an advantageous one, as a brief consideration of the facts will show.

The stage formerly left Townshend at 6 o'clock A. M., by way of Grafton, for Bellows Falls, and upon the return trip left Bellows Falls about 1 o'clock P. M. and arrived at Townshend about 6 P. M. All mail left at the Bellows Falls office for Townshend and Grafton after the departure of the Townshend stage remained at that office until the next day, unless forwarded to Brattleboro by the mail train leaving between 2 and 3 o'clock. All mail from New York and south of Brattleboro, also all Boston mail reaching Brattleboro after 10:30 A. M., and the mail from Brattleboro, Dummerston, Williamsville, Fayetteville and Townshend, for Grafton, after that time, remained at Townshend over night. The change made enables Grafton to receive all this mail the same evening, and also gives to Grafton a daily mail to and from New York.

Under the present arrangement the mail facilities are much better for Townshend and the towns west and south of Townshend to communicate with Grafton, which last-named town has retained all facilities between itself and Bellows Falls which it had before the change was made.

The stage now leaves Townshend for Grafton upon the arrival of the evening train over the narrow-gauge road, and returns from Grafton in season to connect with the mail train to Brattleboro the next morning.

If the stage between Grafton and Townshend should be run and managed for the convenience of the public, as it undoubtedly will be, the change, aside from the increased mail facilities afforded, would also furnish greater conveniences to the public so far as travel to and from Grafton is concerned. The people of Grafton could go by public conveyance to Bellows Falls each morning, arriving there about noon; or they could come to Townshend, and arrive in Brattleboro upon the morning train in season to take the first train from there to Boston or New York.

If there is any dissatisfaction on account of the change made, it is not because of the increased mail facilities or of the increased convenience to the traveling public, but because the proprietors of the stage line between Grafton and Bellows Falls and the people of the Falls would be glad, so far as their interests are concerned, to have the mail service continued as before, so that Grafton would reap but little, if any, benefit from the narrow-gauge railroad.

O. S. HOWARD.

West Townshend.

SAD AND FATAL ACCIDENT.

—On the 29th ult., while David Pomroy was at work with a circular saw getting out chair stock, in A. A. Goodell & Co.'s mill, a piece of wood was thrown with such force, striking him in the stomach, as to cause his death almost instantly. Mr. Pomroy was 62 years of age, and had lived in this town 17 years, coming here from Swanzey, N. H., in 1867. Most of this time he had spent working around machinery. He was a man of good habits, always kind and obliging, and will be missed by a large circle of friends.

—A Democratic torchlight procession, with speeches, etc., is set down for Thursday evening, followed by a supper and dance at Dr. Ayer's.

—There was a full house at the lyceum on Tuesday and an interesting time; adjourned for two weeks.

—School began on Monday with about 50 scholars, Miss Clough teacher.

—Are glad to again see Hon. O. R. Garfield on our street and looking so finely.

Vernon.

—Elder J. Hemenway will preach in the chapel next Sunday at 10:30 A. M. and 1:30 P. M.

—The ladies' circle will meet with Mrs. A. Whithed next Wednesday afternoon and evening.

—A large number of relatives and friends assembled at the home of Daniel Newton on Wednesday evening to witness the marriage of his daughter, Susie M., to Francis H. Woodard. The ceremony took place at about 7:30 P. M., and was performed by Rev. E. W. Whitney. After the usual congratulations refreshments were served, and a season of sociability followed. The presents, including silver ware, glass and china, a handsome clock and hanging lamp, were many and attractive. The bridal party left town upon the 10 P. M. train for a short bridal tour. They have the best wishes of many friends.

Wilmington.

THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE READSBORO RAILROAD QUESTION.

To the Citizens of Wilmington and all interested in the railroad enterprise:

At the town meeting recently held it was voted to rescind the vote bonding the town in aid of the road projected from Brattleboro. Whether that was a wise and judicious measure may be a matter of discussion. Messrs. Russell, Smith and Barnard were elected a committee to confer with Mr. Newton and gather such facts as he felt disposed to state in relation to the continuation of his line of road from Readsboro, the present terminus, to this place. Agreeably to such instruction, we waited upon Mr. Newton, and herewith briefly give the result of such conference:

1st. We are authorized to state that Mr. Newton desires the road, and that he will stand ready to aid liberally in its construction; that he has always expected and designed to have the road extend above Readsboro, and that he would not have constructed the road to that point had he not had such intention. This settles the point that has been raised by some, that Mr. Newton would oppose the project.

2d. Mr. Newton does not propose to build the road without aid from the interested towns—especially Wilmington and Whitingham. He feels that the towns ought to raise or guarantee $8000 to the mile, or in round numbers about $90,000. This is computing the distance as a trifle over 11 miles. After the raising of this amount he stands ready to complete and equip in good order. As to the control and management of the road, he would be willing to lease his interest to the towns or to take a lease of the towns of their interest in the line, as might be determined.

3d. As to freight rates, he stated that 10 cents per hundred would be the probable rate from Hoosac tunnel to Wilmington, and passenger rates about 3 cents per mile.

4th. Mr. Newton thinks the cost of building upon the east side of the river would be a trifle more than upon the west side. In other words, he thinks the cost of building on the west side, plus the cost of two bridges, would just about equal the cost of building on the east side. Sadawga and Jacksonville would be better convenienced by the latter route, and on this account it is probable it would be adopted.

Of course it is unnecessary to speak of the feasibility of the road as regards grade. The grade from Hoosac Tunnel to Readsboro is about 55 feet to the mile, and from Readsboro to Wilmington it would be less. It is not for your committee to express their personal opinions, but we would suggest that a town meeting be called to consider and discuss this question. Respectfully submitted,

C. M. RUSSELL, Chairman.

—At the annual meeting of the Universalist society, held Dec. 1, these officers were chosen: Moderator, H. L. Fox; clerk, Clark Chandler; trustees, H. Mann, jr., Edw. Titus, E. A. Willard, jr.; collector, F. E. Titus; ushers, H. L. Fox and Will McLellan.

—Lawyer O. E. Butterfield is at court in Bennington.

—Mrs. Hopkins and child, who have been at S. B. Barnard's for several weeks, have returned to their home in Nebraska.

—The Universalist ladies held a 10-cent oyster supper at their rooms last evening.

—Social Lodge, No. 38, F. & A. M., held a public installation of officers, followed by a supper, on Wednesday evening of last week.

—F. E. Ray is on the gain.

—The funeral of Mrs. G. E. Dennison was held at the Congregational church last Sunday afternoon.

—Fay Bowker and son, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McGregory, and many others from abroad, spent Thanksgiving in town.

—Leslie Hicks has gone to Indian Orchard, Mass.

—J. H. Corbett recently lost a valuable mare.

—Haynes & Kidder shipped to New Orleans, La., this week, a nice case to be used